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**From:** HJR153  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2004 12:07 AM  
**To:** HJR153  
**Subject:** HJR153 - Robert J. Turner

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Company Name: Dominion Virginia Power, Verizon, Telemedia Cable

Comments: I have long been an advocate of burying all utility lines. Since these lines and the companies who install them are dependent upon the public rights-of-way, there is no inherent reason that running them underground cannot be made a condition of using those rights-of-way. Water, gas and sewer, and most new telephone lines are already underground and with modern technology there is no inherent barrier to putting electric lines there also. Not only will this greatly lessen the vulnerability to storm damage, it will greatly beautify all streets and roads thru the absence of ugly poles and wires. It will also enhance the safety of travel because there will be fewer objects for motorists to run into. The additional expense of installation will be largely offset by much lower maintenance costs with no poles at all and wires protected from weather. Also if just the cost of the last (Isabel) hurricane-related repairs alone is considered it would go a long way toward defraying the cost of going underground. I have heard that Dominion Virginia Power has a strong prejudice against underground distribution due to resonances of stray capacitance with transformer inductance creating circulating currents which burn out transformers. But this problem obviously has been overcome in many places which already have underground distribution. It only requires proper engineering practice and training. I believe that underground lines should be a uniform statewide policy so there will be no confusion about it. State resources are called upon when storm damage occurs; therefore, localities should not be permitted to carve out exemptions to this very wise policy.